THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Expansion of Production in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam

2440. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the project report, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RIN) has the possibility of expansion of production upto ten million tonnes; and

(b) whether Government are taking steps to expand the capacity so that it becomes profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The layout etc. of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) admits expansion of capacity to 10 million tonnes.

(b) As per direction of the Govt., the company engaged an internationally reputed consultant to study the turnaround strategies and prepare a comprehensive revival plan for long term viability of the company. The consultants have since submitted their report. And a comprehensive proposal for the revival of the plant is under consideration.

गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में इस्पात एककों को स्थापित किया जाना

2441. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार को देश में गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में स्थापित किये गये इस्पात एककों से प्रत्येक एकक से वर्ष-वार कितनी आय अर्जित की गई;

(ख) क्या किसी नये गैर-सरकारी उद्यम द्वारा एक इस्पात संयंत्र की स्थापना करने के लिए कोई अनुरोध किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार द्वारा गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र में इस्पात एककों की स्थापना करने के लिए प्रोत्साहन दिये जा रहे हैं?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रमेश बैस): (क) इस्पात विभाग इस प्रकार की जानकारी का प्रबोधन नहीं करता।

(ख) और (ग) निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात संयंत्र की स्थापना के लिए सरकार के पास औद्योगिक लाइसेंस हेतु कोई अनुरोध लम्बित नहीं है।

(घ) सरकार ने निजी क्षेत्र में इस्पात उद्योग में निवेश को सरल और सुसाध्य बनाने के लिए एक अनुकूल नीति संबंधी वातावरण सृजित किया है, जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ लाइसेंस को समाप्त करना, मूल्यों का विनियन्त्रण, विदेशी निवेशों के प्रयोजन हेतु उच्च प्राथमिकता उद्योग का दर्जा देना आदि शामिल हैं।

Fertiliser Production by VSP

2442. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertiliser production at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has fallen;

(b) the average fertilizer production last year;

(c) the reasons for the present fall;

(d) whether there are any plans for expansion of the total capacity of the plant; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The average fertilizer production last year was 2783 tonnes per month.

(c) The fall in production was due to less production of coke oven gas.

(d) and (e) As per directions of the Govt., the company engaged an internationally reputed consultant to study the turnaround strategies and

prepare a comprehensive revival plan for long term viability of the company. The consultants have since submitted their report. And a comprehansive proposal for the revival of the plant is under consideration.

Special Import Duty on Seconds and Defective items of Steel

2443. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI PARAMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert group on steel has recommended imposition of special import duty on seconds and defective items and a hike in import tariff on certain types of steel;

(b) if so, what are those types;

(c) whether Government have considered the recommendation; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A working Group had been set up by Government to study the present slow down in the steel sector. The Group has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the working Group, *inter-alia* includes:

(i) To consider feasibility of converting ad valorem rate of import duty into fixed duties on certain finished steel items.

(ii) To consider a combination of measures comprising levy of special import duty on imports of seconds and defectives along with raising duties for certain types of steel upto World Trade Organisation bound rates.

(iii) To consider removal of imports of Seconds and Defective below a specific floor price from OGL.

(iv) Establishing a fast track mechanism, to deal with cases of dumping under the Customs Tariff Act.

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Group, Government has recently announced floor prices for import of seconds and defectives in respect of the following steel items to restrict their import, at low prices:

1. HR. Coils (TMQ)
2. H.R. Sheets
3. C.R. Coils
4. Tinplates
5. Electrical Sheets (CRNO)
6. Plates
7. Alloy Steel Bars & Rods (Hot Rolled in Coils)

Funds for Steel Projects

2444. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions have agreed to provide funds for the completion of on-going steel projects in the country, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 20th November, 1998;

(b) whether any terms and conditions have been imposed by the FIs in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and response of steel companies thereto;

(d) how many steel projects have so far been cleared by Government in private sector indicating their financial involvement/exposure and likely additional capacities projected during 1998-99 in million tonnes; and

(e) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has agreed to provide any financial guarantee in this regard to FIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Financial Institutions have agreed in principal, to consider need based support including minimum additional fund required by deserving and viable steel